Alternative system of entrance examination

362. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently many all India entrance examinations to prestigious course in IIMs and IITs had to be cancelled due to leakage of question papers;

(b) if so, how many such cases occurred during 2003 and 2004 and what preventive measures have been taken to eliminate recurrence of such cases;

(c) whether Government are thinking of some alternative system of entrance in IIMs, IITs etc. on centralized or decentralized basis; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) The Common Admission Test (CAT) for entry to all Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and some other management Institutions conducted on November 23, 2003 had to be cancelled due to alleged leakage of question paper. The test was successfully re-conducted on February 15, 2004. The entire admission procedure was thoroughly reviewed in a combined meeting of the IIMs. As a result several additional precautions *i.e.* change of the printing press, additional seal for each question paper, additional security during test construction, additional deployment of faculty and staff during conduction of the test etc. were implemented in subsequent test.

The old system of CAT for IIMs and the Common Entrance Examination for Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) is still prevalent.

Review of NCERT History books

363. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that terms of reference of Three-Member Committee of Historians appointed to review NCERT History books, do not have precise interpretation;

(b) whether they have to assess the saffronised books of NDA period or any deviation from the historical facts; and

(c) if so, as discrepancies always existed in the interpretation of History and the process being time-consuming, what the students would be taught in the intervening period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The panel of three eminent Historians were asked to do a quick review of History textbooks of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and to suggest what needed to be done in the short term in view of the issues of communalization and inadequacies that has engaged the public and academic attention for a long time. The panel indicated in its report that these books are biased, badly written and full of inadequacies, rendering them unsuitable for consideration. However, because of advanced stage of the current academic session, it was decided by the Executive Committee of the NCERT which considered the report of the panel that the existing NCERT History textbooks would be used by the students during the current session and the teachers of the school would teach the students taking the help of Advisory prepared by NCERT and the old History textbooks of NCERT that were used in CBSE schools prior to the introduction of controversial textbooks. From the academic session 2005-2008, earlier History books of NCERT will be restored with appropriate modifications.

Opening of new Kendriya Vidyalayas in Kerala

364. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is heavy rush of students seeking admission in the Central schools (KVs) in Kerala;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to open new Kendriya Vidyalayas in various parts of the State in near future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Proposals to open new Kendriya Vidyalayas in the country are under consideration.